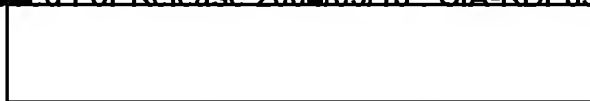


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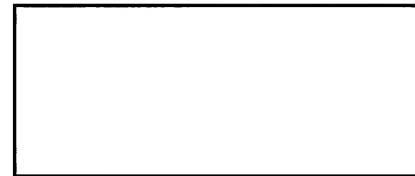
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Cease-Fire Developments

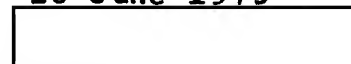
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Cease-Fire Developments

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NORTH VIETNAMHanoi Official Comments on Relations with US

A top North Vietnamese has characterized relations with the US as "fairly good" at the present time, despite the "intransigent attitude of the Saigon Government." Nguyen Co Thach, vice minister of foreign affairs and Ambassador Sullivan's opposite number in the recent round of talks [redacted]

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[redacted] "there is good communications between the two sides and...they appear to understand one another." Thach also commented that he was confident the US would ultimately provide economic aid to Hanoi, mainly "to ward off the influence of China and the Soviet Union." Thach reportedly added that this was "completely in line" with Hanoi's goal of "remaining independent of any single outside influence," including Moscow and Peking. [redacted]

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CAMBODIAThe Military Situation

Government forces reoccupied the village of Thnal Totung on Route 4 west of Phnom Penh over the weekend, but a one-mile section of the highway east of Thnal Totung remains in Communist hands. Route 26 from Thnal Totung south to Kompong Tram has also been cleared, but the Communists still retain control over that road below Kompong Tram. In the Route 3 area, government troops have made no progress in their efforts to retake the village of Prey Totung some ten miles southwest of Phnom Penh.

Northwest of Phnom Penh, the Khmer Communists have consolidated their control over a three-mile section of Route 5 about 40 miles from the capital, effectively closing that highway. Continued Communist harassment of government outposts along Route 5 closer to Phnom Penh suggests the enemy intends to keep the pressure on this important highway. No government clearing operations along the road are scheduled to begin until at least 21 June. Communist activity has also increased along Route 6 northeast of Phnom Penh. Several small outposts on that highway fell to the Communists over the weekend, with

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The loss of these positions and others along the Mekong River northeast of Phnom Penh gives the Communists control over a large portion of territory between the Tonle Sap and Mekong River north of the capital.

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LAOSBoth Sides Showing Interest in Serious Negotiations

Both sides are showing interest in undertaking serious negotiations on the implementation of the Lao peace agreement. Government chief negotiator Pheng Phongsavan described his meeting with Communist envoy Phoumi Vongvichit on 15 June--the first since the signing of the Paris communique--as "productive," and said that Phoumi had displayed a more business-like attitude than at previous sessions. Souvanna has called on the two delegates to complete the negotiations by 1 July, and Phoumi has agreed to try to meet this deadline.

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INTERNATIONALTruong Chinh to Visit Japan?

A group of Japanese opposition Diet members has invited National Assembly chairman Truong Chinh to visit Japan this year. Truong Chinh reportedly accepted the invitation, although he did not indicate when he would arrive. The secretary of the National Assembly later suggested that November would be an "appropriate" time.

During the week-long visit of the Japanese delegation in Hanoi, Truong Chinh reportedly made known his views on three major aspects of Japanese - North Vietnamese relations. He expressed concern over the role of the US bases in Japan during the Indochinese war, but did not indicate that this would be a barrier to formal relations. He also said that Hanoi would not insist on formal recognition of the PRG as a condition for diplomatic ties, but that he did want Tokyo to "recognize the existence" of the PRG. Finally, Truong Chinh suggested that Tokyo allocate at least as much aid for reconstruction of North Vietnam as it had granted to Saigon.

It seems unlikely that Truong Chinh would visit Japan before the two countries establish diplomatic relations. There have been indications that Tokyo would like to establish relations this fall, but Japanese officials have said they wished to see the outcome of the Kissinger-Tho talks before taking further action.

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